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**Alenja Pivko Knežević: Stationary Wave (2015)**

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Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra  
conductor: Yi Chen Lin

duration | 5:04

rec | 2015, Slovenian Philharmonic Hall,  
Ljubljana

music producer | Boris Rener

sound engineer | Mitja Krže

The basic idea behind **Stationary Wave** is to create a feeling of static masses of various dimensions with internal changes that occur by illuminating the individual coloured chunks using dynamics, techniques and instrumentation. This illumination results in the intensification and release of tension, without interrupting the flow of events. The dramaturgical arc follows the dynamics. The slow drawing of the brush across the palette. The mixing of colours in a desire to avoid brown. When the layers of paint dry, the relief cracks, forming an abstract image of lines of standing waves drawn with glissandi.

**Alenja Pivko Knežević** (1989), graduated with a master's degree in 2016 from the Department of Composition and Music Theory of the Ljubljana Academy of Music, in the class of composer Uroš Rojko, as well as graduating from the Department of Music Pedagogy under the supervision of composer Urška Pompe. Her works have been performed at numerous Slovenian concert halls, including the Slovene National Theatre Opera and Ballet Ljubljana, the Slovenian Philharmonic and the National Gallery, as well as at Slovenian and foreign music festivals, such as the Slovenian Music Days, the World Music Days, the Slowind Festival, the Werkstatt Festival (Stuttgart) and the aXes Festival of Contemporary Music (Poland), in collaboration with professional performers such as the RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra, the ensemble Slowind, the Slovenian Philharmonic, the Slovenian Philharmonic String Chamber Orchestra, the ensemble Gaudeamus, the duo Furioso, Nejc Grm, Eva Pavli, Ensemble Garage, Maria Skender, Neus Estarellas Calderon, and others. As well as being performed in Slovenia, her works have appeared on programmes in Poland, Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary.



(Translation: Neville Hall)



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## Nina Šenk: Flux - Ljubljana Concerto No. 1 (2016)

Anders Nyqvist – trumpet  
Christoph Walder – horn  
Krassimir Sterev – accordion

The Slovenian Philharmonic String  
Chamber Orchestra  
conductor: Steven Loy

duration | 20:03

rec | 2016, National Gallery, Ljubljana

music producer | Boris Renner

sound engineers | Mitja Krže



In her **Ljubljana Concerto No. 1, Flux** (also referred to as *Triple concerto* for horn, “firebird” trumpet, accordion and string orchestra), Nina Šenk establishes a connection with Johann Sebastian Bach. The roles of the solo and orchestral instruments were partly influenced by Bach’s *Brandenburg Concertos*, giving rise to a composition with flexible relationships between the musicians and their groups. This flexibility is physical, spatial, as the two brass players enter the composition displaced from the stage, gradually approach and at the end of the work move away again. This also marks the arc of the composition: the beginning and end move slowly in undulating, partially improvised sonic planes, coloured with eerie glissandi in the brass and strings, while the central section is a tense, virtuoso encounter between the musicians. The string orchestra is also placed in deliberate spatial relationships, with three groups whose roles are constantly changing. In places, they form a counterweight in the dialogue with the soloists or shadows; alternatively, they simply provide accents and cuts in the musical flow, while sometimes we also hear a unified orchestra.

Nina inscribes her works on a broad musical field: a field of the calm and the virtuosic, the abstract and the poetic, the known and the unknown, the new and the historical. She trusts tradition, principles of symmetry, of balance, and yet often conceals this with a bravura contemporary *écriture*. She writes out her scores with great precision, but she knows where the music can benefit from more spontaneity and is open to the possibility of improvisation. Of importance to her is virtuosity, agility, yet in her works she increasingly delves into a tranquil sonic state. She respects genres and their rules, but she often bends them and, where necessary, ignores them

altogether. If we stroll through three genre orientations – chamber, ensemble and concertante music – we can thus constantly encounter the transferal of one to another: symphonic colouring can be found even in duos, while a chamber ensemble can surprise us within an ambitious solo concerto.

(text by Primož Trdan)

**Nina Šenk** (1982) graduated in composition from the Ljubljana Academy of Music under Prof. Pavel Mihelčič, before continuing her postgraduate studies in composition in Dresden under the mentorship of Prof. Lothar Voigtländer and obtaining her master's degree in the class of Prof. Matthias Pintscher at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Munich, in 2008.

She is the recipient of many awards, including the European award for the best composition at the Young Euro Classic festival for her *Concert for Violin and Orchestra* in 2004, the Academy of Music Prešeren Award, as well as first prize at the Weimar Spring Festival for Contemporary Music for her composition *Movimento fluido* in 2008. In the 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 seasons, she was a Composer in Residence of the Staatstheater Cottbus Orchestra in Germany. In 2017, she was awarded the Prešeren Fund Award.

Nina Šenk's works have been performed at numerous important festivals (Salzburger Festspiele, New York Phil Biennial, Takefu Festival, Young Euro Classic, Kasseler Musiktage, Musica Viva München, Frankfurter Positionen, Weimarer Frühjahrsstage, Heidelberger Frühling, Ljubljana Summer Festival, Slowind Festival, Slovenian Music Days, World Music Days, Maribor Festival, Unicum Festival, World Saxophone Congress, etc.) and at many other concerts around the world by various orchestras and ensembles (New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Staatstheater Cottbus Orchestra, Young Euro Classic Festival Orchestra, Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra, RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble InterContemporain, Ensemble Modern, Scharoun Ensemble, Ensemble Mosaik, London Sinfonietta, Ensemble United Berlin, Slowind Wind Quintet, Ensemble Aleph, Altera Veritas, MD7, DC8, Ensemble Concorde, Kammer-symphonie Berlin and others).

*(translation: Neville Hall)*



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